



City of
BELOIT, Wisconsin

BELOIT POLICE DEPT. • City Hall • 100 State Street • Beloit, WI 53511

Office: 608/364-6807 • Fax: 608/364-6608

www.ci.beloit.wi.us

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February 4, 2010

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
US House of Representatives
2446 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Baldwin:

On behalf of the Beloit Police Department, Wisconsin I would like to request your support for federal funding in the fiscal year 2011 Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations bill. The City and Police Department submitted a request for \$500,000 in law enforcement technology funding to purchase the ShotSpotter Gunshot Location System (GLS).

We believe that ShotSpotter GLS is an essential tool in our war on crime. The City's police force is stretched beyond our means as we attempt to respond to crime in our City. During the past year, there were a total of 50 serious events in the City of Beloit involving the use of a firearm and a total of 339 calls relating to shots fired. Since the City installed one square mile of the ShotSpotter system on the east side of Beloit in the spring of 2009, there has been a reduction in the number of shooting incidents and the Police have been able to successfully identify and respond to numerous firearm discharges. However, there is a continued need to expand the current coverage by two square miles on the west side of the City. The two square mile area that we wish to expand ShotSpotter coverage to received 59% of the calls related to shots fired and was responsible for 30% of all serious firearm related events.

Networked sensors would be placed at specific coordinates on buildings and telephone poles throughout a two square mile area to accurately detect and locate the origin of gunshots and weapons-events. Once a gunshot is detected, ShotSpotter calculates the position where the gun was fired and sends the data to a central server accessible by law-enforcement agencies. Because ShotSpotter uses computer software to analyze sounds, ShotSpotter is precise enough to ignore fireworks, backfiring cars, and other noises that could be mistaken for gunfire. Police, sheriffs, the FBI and other law enforcement organizations nationwide have been successful in using ShotSpotter GLS to reduce crime. Agencies using ShotSpotter systems have seen gunfire related violent crime rates fall by at least 30%, more than a 50% increase in gunfire arrests, and gunfire rates dropped dramatically, by as much as 60 to 80%, depending on the location of the system. ShotSpotter has also been responsible for producing countless arrests, decreasing police response time, increasing officer safety, pinpointing key forensic evidence, and saving numerous lives.

Thank you for your continued support for the City of Beloit, the Beloit Police Department and for our project. We ask that you advocate for full funding for our request to purchase ShotSpotter GLS. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (608) 364-6812 if I may provide additional information or be of any assistance in your efforts.

Sincerely,


Captain Vincent M. Sciamé